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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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# Mass Education Movement in Szechuan

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION  
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1. The Mass Education Movement (MEM) in Szechuan province has continued its work uninterrupted by the Communist domination of the mainland. In fact when the Communists took over the civil administration of the province they immediately sought the help and cooperation of MEM to expand the rural agriculture and education programs for all of China. Under a joint program the Communists are planning to launch one of the most ambitious anti-illiteracy movements ever witnessed in China.
2. The MEM program covered an area in Szechuan with a population of 5,000,000 people. The Communists have asked MEM to enlarge the area to cover two more districts which will bring the total population under this program to 12,000,000. The Communists have sent experts and technicians to work with MEM people. 50X1-HUM
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5. MEM is concentrating on four programs; (a) rural agriculture; (b) rural education; (c) public health; (d) cooperatives. A Rural Reconstruction College is also operated in Chungking with 300 students enrolled. When they complete a four-year course they are sent into the rural areas to become leaders of their communities. After the last war more than 500 Chinese college graduates were recruited for MEM work in Szechuan. Many Communist-controlled colleges are enrolling numerous students to go into rural reconstruction work.
6. MEM also operates a small paper mill producing small quantities from bamboo pulp. There is also a small weaving mill which produces cloth for the farmers.
7. The Communists are well-acquainted with MEM work. In fact they have already taken over the original program in Tingsien which was used by Dr. James Yen, the founder, as an experimental station. When the Communists were headquartered in Yenai they

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- Invited Dr Yen to go there to help the rural education and agriculture work. However, Yen was in Chungking at the time and could not make the trip.
8. There is no inflation in Szechuan. In fact there is deflation. Production in the whole area has been seriously curtailed due to guerrilla activities. The situation in Szechuan is reported to be serious and Kwangsi guerrillas are also extremely active. Food prices are kept under control and the economy on the whole is stabilized.
9. The Communists have not interfered with MEM's work. In fact the men assigned to MEM are hard-working, honest and efficient. Even the highest official took a long inspection tour on foot with members of MEM recently. They receive a rice allowance, housing and a meager salary. The people on the whole generally feel satisfied even if taxes are high because the Communists put the money back into the areas for improvement rather than pocketing it for themselves.
10. Chinese who are carrying on the MEM work vaguely indicate the chief objection to Communist rule is "thought control". In fact some of the reports intimated that it was extremely oppressive although there were no details. Maybe this is the price one must pay and sacrifices made for honest and efficient government.
11. The Communists and MEM recently held a long conference in Chungking to discuss rural reconstruction and agricultural reform work. A million-word Chinese report has been written, covering the whole 25-year period of mass education and anti-illiteracy work in China.
12. Under the Communist influence MEM's work is concentrating more on agricultural and rural reconstruction. Mass education has been temporarily halted for unknown reasons. The text books originally put out by MEM and used extensively in Tingsien and in Szechuan are now being re-written by the Communists. This is probably the most drastic change.

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